



# Benelux Meteor

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## Quick Read

### In General

#### Remember our heroes

U.S. Memorial Day ceremonies on May 29 will be held at 10 a.m., at Ardennes Cemetery and at 4 p.m. at Henri-Chapelle Cemetery, both near Liège. A May 30 ceremony is at 3 p.m. at Flanders Field, in West Flanders. Large numbers of veterans are expected in this 60th anniversary year of the liberation of Belgium and the Battle of the Bulge. These events are organized by the American Overseas Memorial Day Association, and the United States Embassy to Belgium with major assistance from the 80th Area Support Group and other American units in the area.

### Belgium

#### Thank our volunteers

**SHAPE and Chièvres:** Volunteer Recognition Luncheon is May 25, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at SHAPE Officers' Club ballroom. Info: Grace Cesonis, DSN 423-4270.

**Brussels:** Annual volunteer recognition ceremony is May 21, 7:30 p.m., Three Star Lounge. The theme is "Volunteers are Stars." Info: 02 717-9679 or Emmy.Isbell@benelux.army.mil.

#### Best lei-ed plans

Aloha Polynesia dance group performs May 13, 2-3 p.m., at the Community Activity Center on Chièvres Air Base for Asian Pacific Heritage Month. Info: 065 34-7850.

#### Think thrift

Thrift Savings Plan open season continues through June 30. ACS will have TSP presentations May 7, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and May 18, 5:30-7:30 p.m. in NSA Building 2 Conference Room. Civilians can contact their financial readiness program manager for another class.

### Netherlands and Germany

#### Triborder celebrates heritage

An Asian Pacific Heritage Month celebration is May 18, 6 p.m. at AFNorth International School. The event is free and open to all NATO and U.S. ID cardholders.

#### Umpires needed

Youth Center baseball in the 254th BSB starts soon. Earn cash by umpiring, call DSN 364-2023 or civilian 045 526-2023.

#### Youth Services dance set

The 254th BSB YS has a dance for middle school youth, grades 6-8, May 28. Info: 31 45 526-3008.



By Bram de Jong

ANTWERP, Belgium – U.S. military logistics and transportation agencies across Europe came together in the bitter January cold at Antwerp, Belgium, to move over 70,000 tons of the 1st Infantry Div., known as The Big Red One, and other Europe-based units' equipment to Iraq, in the United States' total rotation of forces for Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

"This operation is the single largest movement of equipment, at one time, since World War II," said Brig. Gen. Stephen Mundt, of 1st Inf. Div., "We're talking a major move. We're redeploying almost four divisions back out, plus all the echelons above division and corps, over 40,000 folks, moving simultaneously."

Logistical units such as 21st Theater Support Cmd. and 838th Transportation Bn., a subordinate unit of the 598th Transportation Terminal Grp., Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SCCD), began planning for the mission as soon as the Department of Defense named 1st Inf. Div., based in Germany, as one of the major units that would participate in the rotation of forces in Iraq in March.

The Commanding General of 21st TSC, Maj. Gen. Bennie Williams, was given overall responsibility for the deployment and redeployment of all U.S. Army Europe forces equipment to and from Iraq by U.S. Army, Europe Commander, Gen. B.B. Bell.

"No cargo will sit," said Williams, emphasizing the need to maintain a continuous flow of equipment to the Port of Antwerp, where loading of waiting cargo vessels occurred as soon as safely possible. "We're going to get it all there, and we're going to get it there on time."

The 21st TSC drew up the master plan to transfer 10,000 pieces of equipment by barge,

rail, and commercial truck to Antwerp. The process started in December using a Cape class ship and a U.S. flagship chartered by Military Sealift Command. Both ships moved the first 2,000 pieces. The move of the majority portion of 8,000 pieces started in mid-January, and finished in early February. Members of the 1394th Deployment Support Bde. worked with 1st Inf. Div. to prepare their equipment for the long journey. Twenty-six reservists from this U.S. Army brigade from Camp Pendleton, Calif. provided outstanding support to the 598th Trans. Grp. when they deployed with two weeks notice to multiple locations in Germany in November, and then again in January.

"They provided 1st Inf. Div. units with preparation expertise and performed quality control functions at numerous (locations)," said Lt. Col. Kellie Davila-Martinez, director of operations, 598th Trans Grp. "This process ensured a smooth reception of 1st Inf. Div. cargo at the barge sites and Antwerp."

Another brigade from the 21st was put in charge of administrative and logistical needs at Antwerp.

Moving some 10,000 vehicles and containers through multiple countries to Belgium's major port requires tremendous amounts of planning. Each of the affected nations' regulations regarding movement of heavy equipment, hazardous cargo, oversized loads, and river access had to be closely examined.

The role of the 838th Trans Bn. started at German sites in Mannheim, Bamberg and Aschaffenburg where personnel of its Rhine River Detachment, assisted by other units within the 598th Trans. Grp., loaded the 1st Inf. Div.'s cargo on barges. Once the cargo reached Antwerp, the 838th Trans. Bn. mission continued with contracted stevedores unloading the equipment from barges, rail and commercial trucks. Some-

times their work was supplemented by drivers from 21st TSC and 1st Inf. Div. Personnel from the 598th and the 838th handled the documentation of all cargo as it arrived.

"Reservists from 1189th Transportation Terminal Bde. (TTDBE) from Charleston, S.C.; 1192nd Transportation Terminal Bde. from New Orleans; and 1188th Transportation Terminal



PHOTO: Bram de Jong

Of the total equipment arriving in Antwerp, 36 percent came by train, 45 percent by barge, and 19 percent came by truck.

Bn. from Decatur, Ga. deployed to Antwerp and provided superb support in all facets of operations," said Lt. Col. Kellie Davila-Martinez, Director of Operations, 598th Transportation Grp. "In addition, members of the 1189th TTBDE deployed to the barge sites in Germany provided vital leadership and support. We definitely could not have been a success without the help of our reserve component force."

The division prepared their equipment by force packages prior to departing from home stations. The 838th staged their equipment and supervised the loading of vessels brought in by the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command, or MSC. Five MSC cargo ships, known as Large, Medium-Speed Roll-on/Roll-off ships were used to move 8,000 pieces of equipment to Kuwait. These ships are operated by up to 30 civilian crewmembers.

See Port Ops Page 2.



Mundt



Williams





Joke Klapwijk and Cor Schaatsbergen, transportation specialists for 838th U.S. Army Transportation Bn., Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Cmd., document 1st Inf. Div. equipment being transferred in Antwerp.

PHOTOS: Bram de Jong

## Port Ops from Page 1

With multiple military agencies already involved, the operation was further complicated by the need to supervise civilian contractors, Belgian military guards, Belgian military divers, the civilian port authorities, as well as the Belgian Federal police.

The commander of 598th Trans Grp., Col. Victoria Leignadier, was pleased with the end result of all these agencies working in tandem.

"The way this was organized needs to become the SDDC (Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Cmd.) standard," said Leignadier. "I have never seen an operation move this smoothly. Despite all the different organizations here, it is one seamless operation. The teamwork between the Army organizations, active and reserve, our host na-



Col. Susan Sowers, Commander, 37th Transportation Cmd., left, and Col. Victoria Leignadier, Commander, 598th U.S. Army Transportation Terminal Group, Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Cmd., survey their domain at Port of Antwerp.

tion partners, and commercial industry has been truly outstanding."

Last year during Operation Iraqi Freedom I, Leignadier was SDDC's Single Port Manager in Kuwait. More than 200 ships arriving in Southwest Asia were unloaded under her command.

This year Leignadier was SDDC's Single Port Manager in Antwerp. She worked together with Col. Susan Sowers, commander of 37th Transportation Cmd., and also commander of the Marshalling Area Control Grp. (MACG.) Sowers is no stranger to SDDC. During the early 1990s she was operations officer in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in Rotterdam and Saudi Arabia.

In smaller operations, SDDC would normally coordinate with the movement control team (MCT) and the host nation to receive and load vessels without a MACG. In this case, the operation was so large it was necessary to have a MACG to provide some common services, such as force protection and safety synchronization, a port support activity with drivers and mechanics, a life support area, access control, and a joint visitor's bureau.

"The role of the MACG was principally to enable SDDC

to load the deployment cargo in a small time slot of less than three weeks," said Sowers. "I heard it said many times, that this was the smoothest large port operation that anyone had ever seen to date."

Sowers continued, "We all realized that this operation was our important contribution to the Global War on Terrorism, and more importantly, that our forces are depending upon us to get their equipment to the fight. The Transportation Corps motto, 'Nothing happens until something moves,' was put to the test this month, and we feel pretty good about the fact that we're an integral part of the larger team's success."

Responsible for direct receiving, documentation and loading of the MSC vessels was Lt. Col. Victor Gonzalez, commander of 838th Transportation Bn.

"This is exactly why the operation has been a success," said Gonzalez. "We prepared the plan, briefed it to the chain of command, starting with the division commander, made the necessary coordination with supporting units, and the end result was a successful operation. Transportation-wise it was a very positive experience to work with the Belgian Army. They've been an intricate part of this operation, providing us with the support we needed at the right time."

"It's not a challenge, but more a commitment, that we must be relevant to the combatant commander," Gonzalez said. "The key in this operation was that we were included in the military decision-making process from the beginning of the process. We modified our plan taking into consideration previous lessons learned. We looked at different ways to mitigate the challenge of (always providing) proper documentation. We leveraged support from the Marshalling Area Control Group (MACG) like we never did before, we worked hand-in-glove with the division's mobility warrant officer like never before. This was a well-coordinated operation."

### Military Sealift Command

Once the equipment was at the port and ready for loading, the U.S. Navy stepped in to play its vital role: shipping the equipment to Kuwait, where it will be off-loaded and moved forward into Iraq.

Christopher Begley, civilian captain of the U.S. Navy cargo vessel U.S.N.S. Red Cloud will be making his second trip to Kuwait to deliver vital combat equipment and supplies.

"Moving this massive amount of equipment to Iraq, validates what we learned after Desert Storm in the early 1990's," said Begley, "that we need to

deliver massive amounts of equipment quickly. This ship has cargo space equivalent to eight football fields."

Capt. Bradford Collins, the master of the U.S.N.S. Dahl was also happy about the loading process in Antwerp.

"The ship was loaded in less than two days," Collins said. "The crew worked long hours and the interaction with the Army and the commercial stevedores was flawless. Everything was done fast and efficiently."

### Duty First!

"The commander of 1st Inf. Div., Maj. Gen. John Batiste, has been emphatic about having key leaders at the critical points during our deployment," Mundt said. "The Port in Antwerp is a critical node in our deployment process and required our attention. This should not be construed as a lack of confidence in those at the port doing their job - they have been magnificent and true professionals in every sense of the word - but where you see Big Red One Soldiers, you will find the leadership enduring the same hardships and ensuring that our standards are maintained and that we do everything safely."

"Critical to note, this philosophy has ensured that we completed all installation support activity and port operations without a single incident or accident involving a U.S. Soldier. While we moved almost 8,000 pieces of equipment from combat vehicles to containers we only had minor damage on two pieces of equipment during the deployment. (That is) a remarkable accomplishment in anyone's book and a testament to the men and women of the division and their leaders as well as the super team effort from 21st TSC, the USAREUR Staff and leadership, Military Sealift Command, SDDC's 598th Trans Grp., 838th Transportation Bn., 69th ADA Bde., 37th



Batiste



Maj. Thomas Taylor, 1189th Transportation Terminal Bde., coordinates arrival of equipment by rail Jan. 30.

Transcom, 28th Transportation Bn., 39th Transportation Bn., 1st TMCA, 623rd MCT, the Reserve Component and numerous others whom we all owe a debt of thanks to."

Mundt concluded, "I guess it is best said in my hope that the same team is here for our redeployment a year from now. I would proudly serve with them anywhere any time. They live the 1st ID motto, 'No mission too difficult, no sacrifice too great — Duty First!'"

*De Jong is public affairs officer for 598th Transportation Terminal Grp.*



A driver steers a truck loaded with containers toward the loading ramp of U.S.N.S. Charlton at quay 1241 in the Port of Antwerp Jan. 28.

# U.S. Army is already changing

19 April 2004

Bell Sends #17-04

Personnel Policy and Our Changing Army

1. The Army at war is undergoing immense change as it transforms into a more expeditionary force. This transformation and the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) require the Army to reallocate resources, redesign systems, and create entirely new tactics, techniques, and procedures. Significant Army-wide changes to personnel policies are required to create, foster, and enable necessary cultural change. All our Soldiers must be "riflemen" imbued with the Warrior Ethos, understanding that joint capability is more lethal and important than the Army alone. In moving to the future, the following will likely influence and characterize our force.

- Tomorrow's force will use a stabilized, unit-centric manning policy. It will involve selected augmentation by individual replacements in certain areas to improve combat readiness.

- The number of PCS moves a Soldier makes will be reduced. Soldiers will enjoy periods of force stabilization at a Homebase. The Homebase / Advanced Assignment Program will change, and emphasis will be placed on stabilizing families (with the Soldier coming from and returning to a "home base" as needed) instead of moving the entire family unit to a new location.

- While the well-being of Soldiers will remain a vital focus, as always readiness to meet world missions will be our main concern. In the past, Soldier assignments were determined to a certain extent by individual preference, and Soldiers generally were notified of upcoming assignments 12 months in advance. In the future, Soldiers may have as little as 90 days' advance notice of a deployment; however, the family could remain stabilized at the Soldiers' Homebase.

- We will continue to see targeted reenlistment initiatives instead of an across-the-board retention-incentives program. These initiatives include bonuses and other changes, such as the recent retention control point (RCP) adjustment for staff sergeants, to keep experienced noncommissioned officers and support deployed forces.

2. Soldiers based in the continental United States are already beginning to see changes in the way the Army will operate. Soldiers in the Army in Europe must be aware of and prepared for these changes. Nonetheless and regardless of location of assignment, tomorrow's Soldiers will need to be flexible, independent, innovative, multi-skilled, and comfortable with a high OPTEMPO.

3. The future may bring several other changes designed to field and support a more expeditionary force. The changes being considered involve a wide range of initiatives, including pay incentives, assignment and retention options, and family programs.

- Unit stability will involve a home-based force with fewer PCS moves. Soldiers on short tours in overseas areas may be offered incentives to extend their tours. (We are already seeing this in Korea).

- New pay incentives may be offered to make deployments more attractive (for example, warrior pay may be provided for deployments, and could increase according to the length and

frequency of deployments [similar to Navy sea pay]).

- Soldiers may be able to view and apply for available duty assignments through Army Knowledge Online (AKO).

- The personnel structure—from DA down to personnel detachment level—will likely be reorganized to enable greater visibility and coordination of the combat force.

- New policy will also likely be implemented to reduce the number of nondeployable

Soldiers.

- The number of PCS moves for professional development courses may be reduced.

- Retention teams in the field may be augmented to better meet unit needs. These teams will work closely with Soldiers and commanders, and adjust retention programs according to unit requirements. Variable enlistment length (VEL) contracts may be expanded to support unit stability. This initiative would further reduce unit turbulence, increase cohesion, and ensure new Soldiers meet the 36-month "life-cycle" requirement of the unit.

4. Our Army is fighting a war, while reorganizing and transforming. Changes to personnel policy are needed to help us stay relevant and be ready. The changes mentioned in this message are not all-inclusive; more will follow as we integrate the lessons we learn during the transformation process and the GWOT. I will periodically update you on specifics of Personnel Policy Changes. In all this, Soldiers need to be ready for these changes and be prepared to adapt as we continue to accomplish Any Mission, Anywhere!



Gen. B. B. Bell

B. B. BELL  
General, USA  
Commanding

## Bell helping families "right now"

By Jason L. Austin

BAUMHOLDER, Germany — "We gotta fix things right now," said Gen. B.B. Bell, commander, U.S. Army Europe during a visit here with the rear detachment commanders and select Family Readiness Group volunteers.

Bell's visits to the 1st Armored Division communities of Baumholder and Friedberg came after the announcement April 14 that 1st AD Soldiers are going to spend up to four more months in Iraq.

Bell made the point that the community accepts the mission, but they need help. "We're not arguing the requirement, we'll do our duty," Bell said. "This great division has stood and delivered in the face of the enemy, and now we're going to do what's right for them back here." The family readiness group volunteers expressed gratitude for Bell's desire to do what is right. "This is the most wonderful thing they could have done," said Kim Hickman, FRG leader. "It helps the wives feel connected and it makes them feel better all the way around. It shows somebody cares."

Hickman conceded that the spouses weren't happy about the deployment, but accepted it. "Yes, it sucks. This is what our husbands do though. I mean, this is their job. But it's nice to know that the ones who are left behind, here, are not forgotten," Hickman said. "This is one less thing for (the Soldiers) to worry about. They can do their job. This is not a concern for them. They know their families are taken care of."

Bell described the importance of taking care of the families from the standpoint of military necessity. "A Soldier

who knows that he has good living conditions will go out and live in the dirt until he or she is blue in the face, he said."

According to Bell, Soldiers in Iraq today, who know somebody cares about their family will go out and soldier well tonight on patrol. However, if that family e-mails him tonight and says 'I've had it. I want out of the Army. If you don't come home I'm divorcing you.' If that's the message that he's getting, "it's our fault," said Bell, "Because it's likely that spouse got that sense from a system that doesn't care."

"Who cares?" Bell asked. "We care." "If there ever was a time in your service to America, where you stood and delivered, this is the time," Bell told the leadership in the Baumholder community.

Bell charged the rear detachment commanders and community leaders to take action. "You've got to be bold and aggressive, you have to be willing to take some risk with our normal procedures, and I'm telling you to do it," Bell said. "I'm telling you to do what's right."

The rear detachment commanders took Bell's words to heart. "General Bell has given us our marching orders," said Maj. Jeff Madison, 8th Finance Battalion. "He's empowered us to cut through the red tape and do things in a different procedure. To challenge the barriers that prevent us from doing what we need to do."

It's those barriers and those regulations that Bell wants the leaders to work around. "If we follow our rules, we're just going to frustrate people, and we're not going to serve their needs in a short amount of time," Bell said.

Most of our rules make sense in peace time. Some of them even make sense in wartime ... "but almost none of them make sense when you've been extended for four months and your family is now facing a series of very difficult issues, said Bell."

"Do what's right ... We gotta do it right now," he said. "When you're trying to do things quick there's a little waste. There will be no abuse either, but if you end up wasting a few bucks of Uncle Sam's money in the final accounting trying to do what's right for these family members, so be it."

"This is an owed debt," Bell said, "and we gotta pay it off, and I intend to do it."



PHOTO: Jason L. Austin

General Bell talks with spouses one on one.

## 80th ASG supports part of 1st Inf. Div. move

By Rick Haverinen

When big movements of U.S. military equipment happen at ports in the Benelux area, it's a safe assumption that the 80th Area Support Group will be helping out with a piece of supporting the logistical work.

"The 80th ASG's primary responsibility was to provide base support for the Soldiers and civilians assigned to U.S. elements that ran the port and who make sure the equipment is loaded or offloaded from the ships," said Chuck Blocker. In this case, with the cooperation of the Belgian military, we used part of the Westakkers Caserne at Haasdonk, Belgium. We set up a tent facility with bed space for about 700 soldiers, a dining facility, showers and latrines, both male and female. We had a PX area, we had a recreation area with big screen TVs, movies, sport-

ing events, satellite TV, and we had some physical fitness equipment."

The installation and removal of the Life Support Area, or LSA, was done ultimately by a civilian contracting company.

"When we figured out what our requirements were we turned them over to the Benelux contracting office and they solicited bids from contractors," Blocker said. "I believe we had four bids, and some included sets of one, two and four-man containers set up in multiple villages. But the design we chose, was a sort of mass-living big top where everything was under a tent, and the majority of Soldiers could do all their business without ever having to go outside except to get on the bus to go to the port."

The civilian contracting company ran with the project once selected.

"Our contractor started delivering his equipment around Dec. 15 and by Jan. 7 we were beginning to billet troops," Blocker said. "During the holidays he worked for about three weeks, which is a very rare thing here in Belgium."

Transportation was needed to shuttle workers between the LSA and the port, so the 80th ASG provided a small fleet of buses and drivers.

"On this occasion we also set up a dining facility on the port so the Soldiers who were working 8-12 hour shifts could take three hot meals a day while they were there.

See ASG Supports Page 7.



# Avoid electric, other utility bill shock

By Sandy Aubrey

SCHINNEN, Netherlands – Imagine getting ready to PCS - the madness of sorting and getting rid of unwanted stuff, packing, cleaning house, clearing quarters, closing accounts, and paying last minute bills. Suddenly, a week before you fly, the electric company informs you that you owe Euro 8,000 in back bills. At today's exchange rate that's almost \$10,000.

Once the shock wears off and your heart starts beating at a rate that allows you to speak again, panic sets in. You've tried to conserve energy and have always paid your bills on time, so how could this be possible?

Upon checking with the 254th Base Support Bn. housing office at Schinnen, the worst is confirmed – you have to pay! Worst case scenario is you'll have to pay the full amount. The best case scenario (and this possibility is very remote) is that there has been a miscalculation and the amount to be paid can be reduced somewhat, but not enough to get your blood pressure back to normal. What is remote about this possibility is not that there has been a miscalculation, but that the utility company will acknowledge the mistake in time for you to catch your flight without first having to take out a mortgage to pay the bill.

The sequence of events described above is not fiction or make-believe. People leaving the Tri-border have experienced similar situations with the monies involved ranging Euro 2,000-8,000. Having to pay such a substantial amount of money prior to moving is tantamount to what the military refer to as sustaining a sucking chest wound – in the pocketbook.

Here's what happens, the Dutch billing system for electricity, gas and water is based on estimation. The utility company estimates how much an occupant will consume based on previous year's consumption. At the end of each year, the company sends occupants a utility form to fill out. Occupants must read their meters, fill out



PHOTO: Sandy Aubrey

**Capt. John Lorenzen, S2/3 officer, makes sure he submits his meter readings on time. To avoid getting the shock of a lifetime, the 254th Base Support Bn. Housing Office recommends all occupants read their utility meters monthly.**

the form and mail or call in the figures to the appropriate agency. Because of the language barrier, occupants have been known to think the form is junk mail and trash it.

To mitigate the possibility of this happening to unsuspecting occupants, officials from the 254th Base

Support Bn. and Dutch utilities companies met in March to discuss solutions.

The outcome of the meeting can be summarized by saying that everyone should read their meters monthly and provide these figures to the Housing Office at Schinnen. The Housing Office will call the figures into the utility companies and compare actual consumption versus monthly payments. This way, major discrepancies or differences can be caught early and the possibility of accumulating hefty bills is reduced.

"I'm instituting a plan to ensure all Soldiers turn in their readings monthly in order to keep them from falling into the same trap," said Capt. Julian Avent, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment commander, himself a victim of the estimation process. "I can't order civilians to do this. However, I strongly encourage them to take heed and also provide monthly figures to the Housing Office."

The Directorate of Public Works at Schinnen will provide assistance to residents who bring in their utilities readings monthly. People living in government leased quarters should bring their monthly readings to Jacques Van de Meulenhof, utilities clerk in Building 22, and those in private leased quarters need to bring theirs to the Housing Referral Office in Building 18.

Don't add to an already stressful situation, take charge of your utilities consumption and provide regular monthly meter readings to the Schinnen Housing Office.

## 'Born to Be Mild,' learn, practice motorcycle safety

By Sandy Aubrey

SCHINNEN, Netherlands – With summer rapidly approaching, many motorcycle riders are revving their bikes to hit the road. Among motorcycle enthusiasts there's a bond born of love of the outdoors and a shared feeling of being one with nature while cruising down the highway at 120 km. per hour. They say the exhilarating feeling and sense of freedom riders get on a motorcycle is equal to none.

But the downside of motorcycles is the high rate of injury and deaths when accidents occur. That's why true enthusiasts also share the knowledge that motorcycle safety is of paramount importance if they're to live to enjoy all the experience has to offer. They're the first to advise beginners that before taking the bike out of the garage and certainly before turning the key, they should attend a motorcycle training course to learn how to safely and skillfully operate a motorcycle.

Some people may ask why? Isn't it

enough to have a drivers' license? The short answer is, No. Riding a motorcycle requires special skills and concentration. Motorcycle rider education and training comprise the centerpiece of a comprehensive motorcycle safety program.

In the United States motorcycle fatalities represent approximately five percent of all highway fatalities each year, yet motorcycles represent just two percent of all registered vehicles. Approximately 80 percent of reported motorcycle crashes result in injury or death; a comparable figure for automobiles is about 20 percent. One of the main reasons motorcyclists are killed in crashes is because the motorcycle itself provides virtually no protection in a crash.

The 254th Base Support Bn. fully supported the USAREUR motorcycle safety directive and established a Motor-

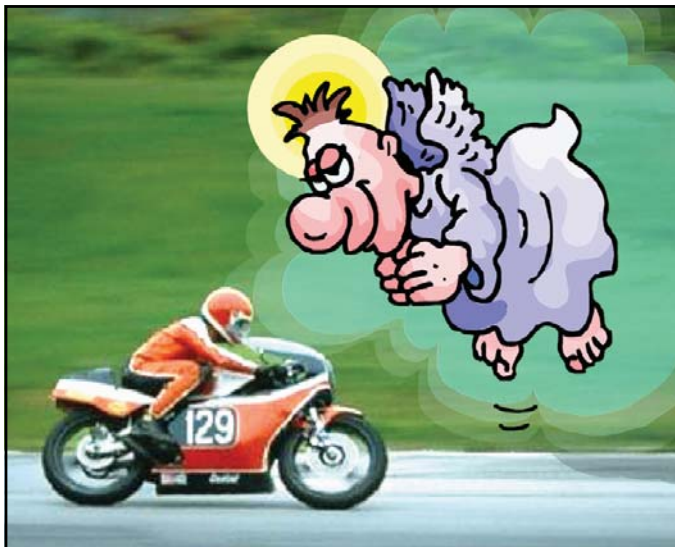
cycle Safety Foundation certification course at the AFNorth sports field. Within the 254th BSB area of responsibility, no rider will be

Foundation certification course. Each course can accommodate up to six students at a time for the four-day, 30-hour certification

instruction starting this month.

"The class is designed to make people more familiar with their bikes and understand safety fundamentals and it's beneficial to both beginners and experienced drivers alike," said James McCall, 254th BSB force protection specialist.

For now only the basic course will be offered and the advanced course will be offered when the need arises. Prior to taking the class, riders can request a license and will be issued one with the condition that they take the next available class or lose their license. Call Wauter Vermeulen at DSN 360-7433 or civilian 46 443-7433 for specific class dates or to sign up.



Broderbund

allowed to operate a motorcycle without taking and passing the Motorcycle Safety

## Young bowlers from Tri-border area again excel at championship



PHOTO: Sandy Aubrey

**Lauren Crocker, 13, beat 40 other bowlers to win the European bowling championship in the 12 and Over Handicap Division. She walked away with a college scholarship and the coveted trophy.**

By Sandy Aubrey

SCHINNEN, Netherlands – It would get tedious if it weren't so great - young Tri-border bowlers again stand out among their peers. Seventeen Tri-border youths participated in the Young American Bowling Alliance (YABA) European Championship April 5-8. Of the 17 participants, 16 received trophies and an eighth grader from the Geilenkirchen community won the 12 and Over Handicap Division.

Thirteen year-old Lauren Crocker finished ahead of 40 other bowlers to win the European bowling championship in her category with a final score of 5,672 pins in 25 games. She walked away with a \$404 scholarship for college and the coveted trophy. Nowadays she can be found practicing at the Schinnen Bowling Center for the International Bowling Championship in Dallas this summer. To help her improve her game, she's coached by her dad, Michael, as well as bowling friends Keith McKeeby, Andy and Mercy Komen, and Asa Peck.

Crocker started bowling when the family moved to the Tri-border three years ago and she joined the YABA team. Before that she says she never gave much thought to bowling. The team is sponsored by the Schinnen

Bowling Center and every Saturday they meet to practice their swing and bowl at least three games. The team had another winner - Ashley Melanson, who won third place in the recent European competition.

Besides bowling, Crocker loves to shop and she also writes poetry. One of her poems, "It Would Be Really Strange If..." was published in a Texas youth magazine.

The eldest of four children, Crocker is modest about her bowling achievement.

"I think I'm pretty good for my age and I've improved a lot over the years but the twins are better bowlers than I am. Unfortunately they couldn't go to Heidelberg with the team," she said.

The twins she referred to are her team-mates, Jeneanne and Roseanne Komen.

For now Crocker bowls simply because she enjoys the sport. She doesn't seem concerned with winning or losing – just enjoying herself.

"I just like to bowl with my friends and have fun and not worry about competing," she said. Although college is four years away, Crocker already knows she wants a career in journalism.



# 'Model NATO' demos full-scale issues



Students divided into delegations representing the 26 NATO nations work on a communiqué during Model NATO at the alliance's Headquarters in Brussels March 30.

By F. Neil Neeley

Students from local DoDDS schools deployed to the diplomatic front March 30 because of a unique workshop sponsored by NATO.

This is the 27th year that North Atlantic Treaty Organization has hosted the "Model NATO" at its headquarters in Brussels. Five local schools and 58 students participated in a mock North Atlantic Council. Delegates included students from Brussels, AFNorth and SHAPE American high schools.

Chris Vahrenhorst is an English and social sciences teacher at Brussels American School and director of Model NATO. According to Vahrenhorst, the two-day program is a terrific opportunity for kids to problem solve with simulated events and



Vahrenhorst

issues.

"On the first day they learn about NATO," Vahrenhorst said. "For the next two weeks they study about an issue from the perspective of a particular nation. At the end of the two weeks they come back and simulate the North Atlantic Council."

At the second session, the students are divided into delegations representing the 26 NATO nations. They are then given topics from which to prepare communiqués. They then try to pass as many communiqués as possible.

A communiqué is basically a statement of policy. Each communiqué is debated in detail until a consensus is reached by the entire body. If your country has decided that it is against approving the communiqué, you will adapt a strategy of nitpicking at the language. You will insist on constant revisions, changing, deleting or adding language until you wear

down your fellow delegates. The object is to either get the communiqué tabled or so watered down it is meaningless.

"They only have about five hours time and that's very difficult," Vahrenhorst said. "The kids do a terrific job at trying to understand what NATO is. That's the thing that's most valuable about this. How many high school age kids really understand what NATO is about, or even what it is?"

Vahrenhorst said that when these students go forward, their experience at Model NATO could make them future promoters of the alliance. They will be able to explain the organization to others with some knowledge and understanding.

"That's because they've studied the issues and written some communiqués about them," he said. "They may have even spoken to representatives at NATO about their issue."

Vahrenhorst said that being in Brussels, and actually being able to use the real NATO headquarters as a venue, presents a unique opportunity. Many of the students at Model NATO also participate in the "Model United Nations" held in The Hague. "There you're on site with a large group of people," he said, "but you're not at the actual venue."

From a student's perspective the program is a rewarding experience. Gabriel Siles-Brugge is a senior at the International School of Brussels and one of the co-chairman at the conference.

"This conference helps me build a solid basis for university and later in life as well," Siles-Brugge said. "You learn about interacting with people and con-

sensus building."

Siles-Brugge has chaired Model United Nations conferences before but, he finds Model NATO more interesting because, "Here I'm presiding over a smaller group



Student delegates vote to pass a communiqué at Model NATO.

and you simply cannot push a resolution or a communiqué through by insisting. You have to build on consensus.

You have to actually work together with the people more closely and get to know your delegates more than in other conferences. You have to be well informed about current issues."

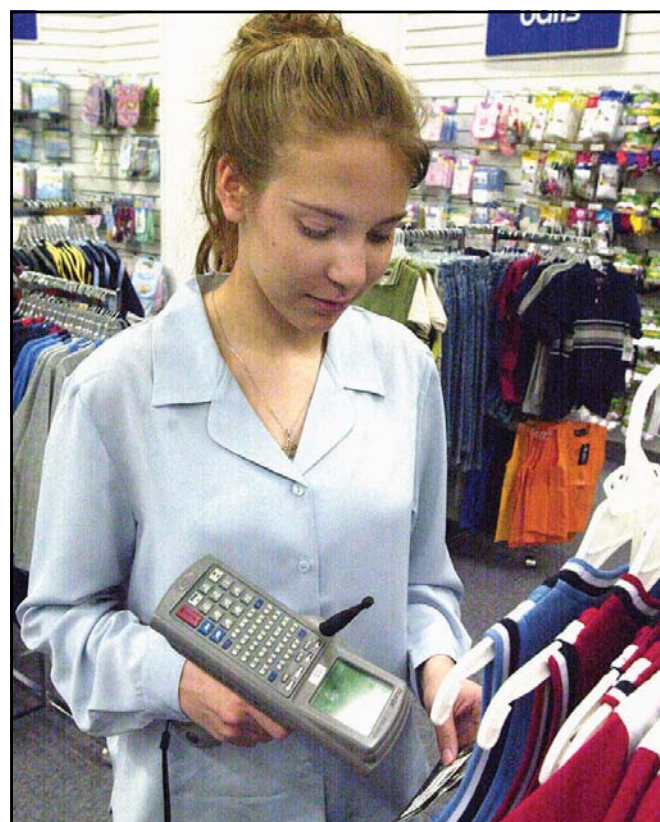
After graduation, Siles-Brugge plans to study international relations and economics at Warwick University in the U.K.

These students may have been role playing at "Model NATO" but don't be surprised if you eventually see one or two of them back there doing it for real one day.



Siles-Brugge

## Job shadows from Brussels see light of working world



Maria Baudoinbajoux cross checks tag prices on clothing against those in the store computer.

By F. Neil Neeley

High school students got a taste of working life last month because of a school program.

Brussels American School sponsored their annual "Job Shadow Days" April 15-16 allowing students to link what they learn in the classroom to a possible career field. The intent was to give young adults the opportunity to ob-

serve members of the work force in action and to gain insight on how life will be when they join the work force.

Students shadowed jobs at local Brussels businesses including Motorola, Daimler Chrysler, IBM, and FinnAir. Also included were a number of businesses and organization within the footprint of the 80th ASG, such as Andrews Federal Credit Union, Northern Law Center, Directorate of Public Works and the Chièvres Post Exchange.

Chièvres AAFES section area manager Gilbert Rivera hosted four students. Rivera said it was a rewarding experience for both sponsor and "shadow."

"It's been a great experience for AAFES to have young people see what we're doing and get a little more of the detail behind the scene," Rivera said.

Rivera said the experience helped his students gain some insight into the operation of retail stores.

"We had one student who worked on (clothing) in the morning," Rivera said. "I showed her how to stock merchandise. A lot of people think it just comes off the truck and right onto the rack but there are a lot of details that we have to do in the store to put the merchandise out. She really enjoyed looking at the clothes. These kids are from Brussels and they don't get down here too often. We have a good new line coming out now and she was really interested in looking at it."

Freshman Paul Moseman and sophomore Maria Baudoinbajoux worked with Rivera the second day. Moseman was a last minute participant in the program and AAFES was assigned to him.

"I don't particularly have an interest in retail," Moseman said. "But putting stuff on sale is a lot more complicated



Rivera

than you think."

Baudoinbajoux spent her day crosschecking prices between tagged merchandise and the store's computer.

"I like this because it gives us good experience of what we might and might not like to do," Baudoinbajoux said. "I'd do retail for a job but it's not really my interest for a career."

Baudoinbajoux enjoys the sciences and might like to become a chemist.

Perhaps a career in retail stores isn't for everyone. The shadow knows.



Freshman Paul Moseman pulls shoes for a customer.



## Brussels Community Calendar

**ACS** (02/717-9783) Microsoft Access class May 10, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., computer lab; Microsoft Excel class May 10, 1:30-5:30 p.m., computer lab; Resume 102 workshop May 11, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., computer lab; Are You A Team Player? workshop May 11, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Old Sanctuary; Interview 102 workshop May 11, 7-9 p.m., Old Sanctuary; Metro Madness class May 15, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; Toddler Play Group every Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.-noon, CYS multi-purpose room.

**Outdoor Recreation** (02/717-9775 or 0474 683 544) Keukenhof and Delft Factory Tour May 9, 7 a.m.-9 p.m., price \$40 adults, \$33 children; North Sea Deep Sea Fishing May 15, 4:30 a.m.-7 p.m., call for price; Amsterdam May 22, 7 a.m.-9:30 p.m., price \$40 adults, \$33 children; Ghent and Brugge June 5, 7:30

a.m.-8:30 p.m., price \$40 adults, \$33 children.

**NSA Education Center** (02/717-9704) Free French Head Start classes, chapters 6-10, May 10-14, 9:00 a.m.-noon in the Ed Center.

**Three Star Lounge** (02/717-9822 or 9819) Movie Night with free popcorn every Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

**NSA Chapel** (02/717-9708) Couples Retreat May 8-9.

**Multi-Craft Center** (02/717-9629) The NSA Multi-Craft Center offers cross-stitching classes Wednesday afternoons, Saturday mornings or afternoons and Sunday afternoons; basic knitting classes Fridays at 10 a.m. and jewelry making classes Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Call for more info or to sign up.

**For more information** about events happening in the Brussels community, visit [www.brussels.army.mil](http://www.brussels.army.mil).

## Long jump, soft landing

**Brussels American School sophomore Angi Fowler touches down in the long jump event during a track meet April 17 at her school. Fowler cleared 14 feet, 4 1/2 inches to place second in the event. Four schools and 150 athletes competed in the first-ever home meet to be held at the school's newly-completed track.**

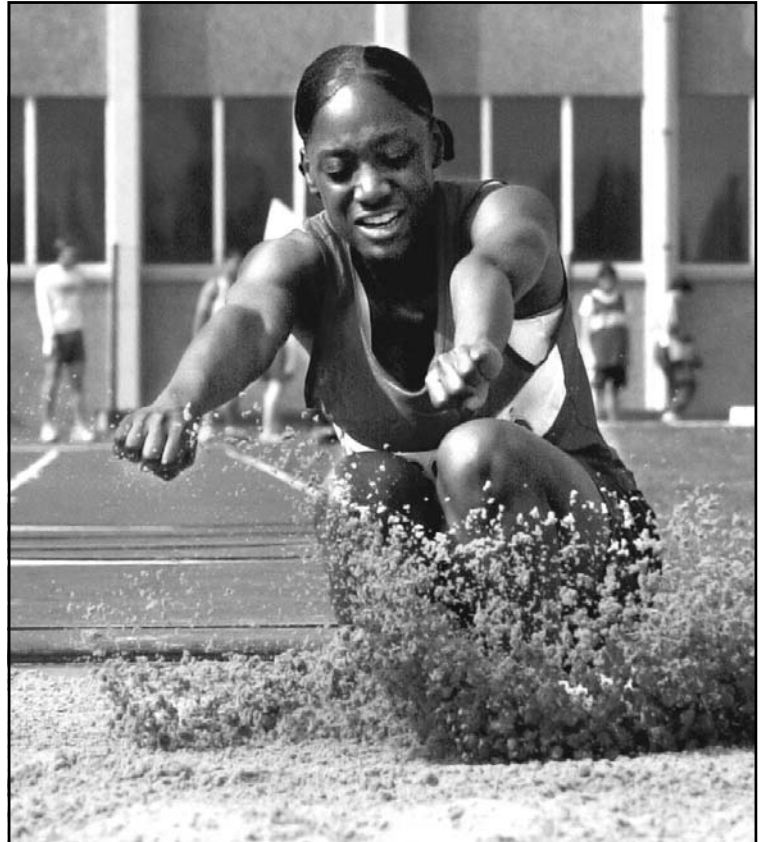


PHOTO: F. Neil Neeley

## SHAPE and Chièvres Community Calendar

**American Red Cross** is looking for gently used items to be auctioned May 15 in the International School cafeteria. All proceeds go to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. Info: 065 44-4008.

**Fitness instructors wanted** - The Fitness Center on Chièvres Air Base seeks instructors for classes. Info: 068 27-5506 or email [ChieversActivityCenter@benelux.army.mil](mailto:ChieversActivityCenter@benelux.army.mil)

**SHAPE entertainment update:** Salsa dance classes are every Monday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the IC Club, sign up with Cesar and Salina; Performances for The Complete History of America Abridged by Adam Long, Reed Martin, and Austin Tichenor, directed by Tobin Atkinson, are May 7 - 7:30 p.m., May 8 - 7 and 9 p.m., May 9 - 3 p.m., at SHAPE Entertainment Centre, tickets are Euro 8 adults, Euro 6 students, and Euro 4 children 12 and under. Info: Shape Entertainment Centre, civilian 065 44 33 12, Box office hours are 2-5:30 p.m., [www.](http://www.shapeonline.net)

[shapeonline.net](http://shapeonline.net), or Email [jacqueline.collins@benelux.army.mil](mailto:jacqueline.collins@benelux.army.mil)

The **Welcoming Everyone to Belgium** center is an Army Community Service satellite office in Hotel Maisières, open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-noon. Learn useful French words May 26, and June 22, 10 a.m.-noon, at the W.E.B. Center. Free class.

**Prime Time Lounge** on Daumerie Caserne has Country night May 8, 8:30 p.m.; Karaoke Night is May 13, 8-11 p.m.; Dart Tourney is May 17, 19, 7 p.m.; Karaone night is May 27, 8-11 p.m.; Luau Tiki Party is May 29, time TBA. Info: Kristyn Facchini, DSN 361-5540.

**Help for newcomers** - Info, Veronique Hensgens, 423-4332. Newcomer Briefing, May 13, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Hotel Maisieres; Take the Bus, May 13, 1:30-5 p.m., depart from Hotel Maisieres to Mons; Take the train, May 28, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., depart from ACS, Building 318 to Brussels.

**Financial classes** - Meet at ACS, Building 318 on SHAPE, all classes are 10 a.m.-noon, info - Kimberly Henne, DSN 423-4824: *Checkbook Management*, *More Month Than Money*, May 7; *Insurance - Which is best for you*, May 10; *Using Credit Wisely*, May 11; *Debt Reduction Strategies* - How to be debt free, May 12; *Savings and Investments* - Where to stash your cash, May 13; *Consumer Rights and Obligations*, May 14.

**Story Time** at the library on Chièvres Air Base is May 13, and 27, 4:30-5 p.m. Info: Jackie Goldfarb, DSN 361-5767.

**Job Information Fair**, May 27, 10 a.m.-noon, at Hotel Maisieres. Info: Pina Artale, DSN 423-4904.

**Workshop planned** - 80th ASG Exceptional Family Member Program has a workshop for parents and providers about autism and Pervasive Development Disorder May 25, 10 a.m.-noon, at the ACS conference room,

Building 318. Guest speaker is Cecil Burns, EDIS psychologist. Includes a light lunch. Seating is limited. RSVP: 065 44-7461.

**A tax bill you can actually ignore** - If you live in SHAPE village and receive a garbage or rubbish tax bill please do not pay it. The City of Mons is taxing SHAPE village residents for a service they do not provide, as they do not collect refuse at SHAPE. If you make the payment now it may be difficult later to be reimbursed. Ongoing negotiations continue to rectify the situation. POC: SHAPE legal office, DSN 423-4950.

**ACS Relocation Readiness Program** offers a cultural ddaptation trip to Brussels May 15. Learn about the Belgium culture and shop at a cost-saving warehouse. Depart 9 a.m. from ACS, Building 318 on SHAPE and returns 5 p.m. The trip is free but seating is limited. Info: DSN 423-5724 or civilian 065 44-5724.

## 254th BSB Local Calendar

**254th BSB Youth Services homework aid** for middle and high school students, Monday-Friday, 4-6 p.m., free but must be enrolled in YS.

**Army Learning Center at Treebeek** is open Monday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday: 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and has new College Level Examination Program material. Info: 364-6060.

**Students bus passes remain current** - Bus passes for AFNorth students living in the Netherlands are valid for school year 2004-2005 and while attending AIS.

**Orcas Swim Team** season is through June 17. Info: 49 2454 96-

9185 or email [max.wiseman@t-online.de](mailto:max.wiseman@t-online.de)

**Tri-border parenting fair** is May 7, 10 a.m., in AFNorth School library.

**A Team Building course** is June 16-18 at Chièvres for supervisors, or employees. Info: DSN 375-9837.

**Club aids orphans** - *Project Afghanistan*, American Spouses Club collects clothes, toys, linens, dishes, books, school supplies, vitamins, Tylenol and pen lights for orphans in Kabul. Take donations to U.S. Thrift Shop at Schinnen or U.K. Thrift Shop at AFNorth; *Food International Orphan Care*, for

students at AFNorth and Geilenkirchen, draw picture of self with favorite food, take with food can or box to Schinnen Thrift Shop. Info: 046 443-7436.

**Jobs available at Schinnen** - DCA has part-time positions for child and youth program assistants. Info: Benelux CPAC, 32 6827-5467, or [Benelux.cpac@cpoecur.army.mil](mailto:Benelux.cpac@cpoecur.army.mil); Job available in Schinnen Commissary delicatessen for an American. Stop by the commissary.

**TaeBo, aerobics classes** are Monday-Thursday, 6-7 p.m., at Schinnen Sports Center. Sign up at Fitness Center. Info: 31 46 443-7561.

**New Parent Support Program** Breastfeeding Support meets May 26, 10 - 11 a.m., ACS Conference Room, Schinnen.

**Playgroup for Toddlers** meets every Thursday, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at Schinnen Sports Center.

**Free developmental screening** for babies through age 3, American-sponsored families are eligible. Info: Mary Jo Rooney, 45-563-6126.

**Adult classes set** - Unless otherwise indicated, classes are held in ACS at Schinnen, 46 443-7500. *Brown bag lunch for parents* May 11, AFNorth conference room, noon - 1 p.m., info, 31 46 443-

7367; *Anger Management* Part 2, May 13, 10 a.m.-noon; *Stress Management*, May 14, 10 a.m.-noon; *New Parent Education infant massage*, May 18, 10-11 a.m.; *Brown bag parent lunch*, May 18, noon-1 p.m., Maastricht conference room, info 31 46 443-7367; *Obstetrics orientation and prenatal education*, May 18, 10 a.m.-noon, GK Clinic conference room, info, 31 46 443-7335; *Enhance Your Child's Self-Esteem*, May 25, 11 a.m. - noon; *Spouses of Deployed Service Members, Handling conflict in a Positive Way*, May 27, 6-7 p.m.

## Geilenkirchen Local Calendar

**Family Support Center**, call 02451 63-3791 or stop by building 78, at Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base to sign up for these workshops or receive more information: *Relocation Assistance*, Sponsorship Training, May 7, 10-11:30 a.m., hear helpful ideas on what you can do to assist the person or family you will be sponsoring; Intro - A Newcomers Orientation, May 18, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., learn about your new base and its many opportunities, mandatory for U.S. military members and civilian employees, military members required to wear uniform, family members encouraged to attend, free

buffet lunch by American Women of Geilenkirchen.

**Exploring Trips:** Aachen May 15, daytrip includes riding the train, a walking tour, visiting the market, and having lunch, each child must be accompanied by someone 12 years or older, bring euros.

**Personal Financial Management Program** and Air Force Aid Society: Brown Bag Investor, May 11, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., old and new investors alike, bring your brown bag lunch and join us in a discussion on investing; Four Year Investment, May 27, 9-11:30 a.m. enlisted, 1-3 p.m. officers, man-

datory briefing for all on active duty four years or less and all E-4s and below, topics that will be covered include debt management, legal issues, housing, credit reports, and insurance.

**Transition Assistance:** Federal Job Search Training, May 27 and June 17, 2-4 p.m., RESUMIX hands-on class at Family Support Center, two hours of electronic experience in the system, reservations 02451 63-3791, info, Laila Christensen, [laila.christensen@geilenkirchen.af.mil](mailto:laila.christensen@geilenkirchen.af.mil); 10 Steps to a Federal Job, May 13, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., learn what it takes to find a government job,

space is limited.

**News from Geilenkirchen Clinic** - *Survey to improve healthcare*, GK U.S. Clinic asks for patient cooperation as the clinic will call 100 patients a week requesting patient feedback. Results will improve healthcare at the facility; GK U.S. Clinic has *two cardiopulmonary resuscitation classes* the first and third Friday each month. Classes on the first Friday are for health care providers and the third Friday are for the general population. Classes are in the clinic training room. Info: 49 2451 99-3343.

# Faster naturalization set for foreign citizens serving in U.S. armed forces

President Bush issued Executive Order 13269 on July 3, 2002 providing for expedited naturalization for aliens and non-citizen nationals serving in an active duty-status in the Armed Forces of the United States during the period of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Bush administration declared the order a reward for their service at a time of war. In his executive order, Bush called for "expedited naturalization for aliens and non-citizen nationals serving in an active-duty status... during the period of the war against terrorists of global reach." The president said that war with a "hostile force" began on Sept. 11, 2001, the date of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania.

For the purpose of this order, the period of military operations in which the Armed Forces of the United States became engaged in armed conflict with a hostile force began the same date, Sept. 11, 2001. The termination of the time period will be designated by a future executive order.

Under previous immigration law, non-citizens must serve in the U.S. military for three years before they are eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship. However, during times of war, a president can issue an executive order, allowing non-citizens on active duty to become eligible for citizenship before completing the three-year period of service.

About 30,000 non-citizens have been serving in the military since September 11, and roughly 15,000 of them have been serving for less than three years. Previous executive orders, issued during the Persian Gulf War, the Vietnam War and other conflicts, allowed some 100,000

non-citizens to become eligible sooner for U.S. citizenship.

Pursuant to the new order, those persons serving honorably in active-duty status in the Armed Forces of the United States at any time on or after Sept. 11, 2001 are eligible to apply for naturalization in accordance with the statutory exception to the naturalization requirements, as provided in section 1440(b) title 8, United States Code. Military personnel serving honorably or honorably discharged on or after Sept. 11, 2001 are eligible to file an application for naturalization if at the time of enlistment, reenlistment, extension of enlistment, or induction such person shall have been in the United States, the Canal Zone, American Samoa, or Swains Island, or, on or after Nov. 18, 1997, on board a public vessel owned or operated by the United States for noncommercial service, whether or not he or she has been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence.

If a person dies as a result of injury or disease incurred in or aggravated by such service, their survivors can apply for posthumous citizenship at any time within two years of the death of the alien or non-citizen national by submit-

ting form N-644.

For as long as Executive Order 13269 is in effect, all eligible military naturalization applicants will be eligible under section 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

All section 329 applicants must submit:

1. Form N-400, Application for Naturalization
2. The N-400 fee prescribed in 8 CFR § 103.7(b)
3. Fingerprints
4. Form G-325B, Biographic Form
5. Form N-426, Certificate of Military or Naval Service

Each branch of the United States military assists their personnel in completing and submitting the N-400, Application for Naturalization, and the required supporting forms. Active-duty military personnel and honorably discharged eligible veterans are encouraged to submit their applications for naturalization through their military base.

Active-duty military personnel who wish to file directly with the Immigration and Naturalization Service and eligible honorably discharged veterans can submit their applications, including fingerprinting fee, directly to:

Immigration and Naturalization Service  
Facilitated Military Unit  
P.O. Box 87426  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-7426



## ASG Supports From Page 3

We made sure there were warming beverages like coffee, tea, and also juice, sodas, and some light snacks to keep their energy levels up."

The 80th ASG provided various types of security help.

"At any time during the primary operation we had a senior NCO from the operations division of the 80th ASG S-3 up there, to act as a contract liaison, and we had an MP (sergeant) and a couple (subordinate) MPs to act as a courtesy patrol, and try to keep incidents to a minimum. Anytime we get that number of soldiers living in that close of a proximity, tempers have a tendency to flare. And just having an MP walking around the area kept everybody aware they were in the military and there are rules."

Some of the dog handlers from the 80th ASG's provost marshal office

checked military equipment arriving in the port for possible terrorist explosives.

Members of the 80th's chaplain corps contributed to spiritual and personal needs the Soldiers might have.

Blocker said the big push to get the 1st Infantry Division equipment shipped to Operation Iraqi Freedom II ran around Jan. 12- Feb. 16.

"After that there were a few small packages that went out as we reduced the troop strength working at the port," Blocker said, "and then we will be receiving retrograde equipment a little bit at a time under a very reduced operation until mid-summer."

"Now the LSA is gone and we're working very small crews because the work is downloading boats, so it takes a lot less people. We have fewer inspections to do, and we can even drag stuff off (the ships) and drag it on the train, so the download is a little easier, it's less personnel intensive, it goes a little faster."

Blocker said the port operation not

only happened quickly, but safely.

"We had no major accidents," Blocker said. "To my knowledge, other than some minor injuries, we had no major injuries or illnesses. I think we handled a few thousand vehicles and pieces of equipment. We had one seriously damaged and one with minor damages that would impact their operability (in Iraq.) I'm sure there are windows that got broken, tires that got flattened, etc. but they could have done that driving from the motor pool to the gas pumps."

Is the Army getting good at moving a lot of equipment in a short amount of time?

"Not that it isn't painful, because we have the language barriers, especially here in Belgium, we're dealing with French, Flemish, Dutch, and English," Blocker said, "but I think we do it probably every bit as well here, as any major port in the United States. In fact, I would put the record of 21st TSC

and SDDC Europe up against any port operation anywhere in the world, as far as being able to get stuff out and get it to the fight, and getting it there in as good a condition as possible.

"We want their equipment to be there for them. And the big push is to get everything out in as short a period as possible, so that as the Soldiers are ready to deploy, we can put 250 Soldiers on an airplane at a time. That equates to a lot of equipment on the other end. That's a lot of trucks, a lot of trailers, a lot of tanks, tracks, you name it. It has to be on the ground so they can be combat effective. It's no good putting the Soldiers there if they can't shoot, move and communicate."

Blocker credits the Belgian ministry of defense with helping to smooth out some the kinks in the operation. "They help us coordinate with local law enforcement, federal police, local fire, federal fire, all the customs people, plus they provide most of our external security while on the caserne and at the port."



## Benelux Meteor Deadline and Publication Dates

Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date
May 10	May 21	June 7	June 18	July 12	July 23	Aug. 9	Aug. 20
May 24	Jun 4	June 28	July 9	July 26	Aug. 6	Aug. 30	Sept. 10

## About Us



The *Benelux Meteor* is the authorized unofficial Army newspaper published under AR 360-1 for 80th Area Support Group personnel. Editorial content is provided by the 80th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office and the 254th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office. Opinions expressed are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 80th Area Support Group. The *Meteor* is published twice per month. Circulation is 3,000. Our mailing address is Benelux Meteor, HQ 80th ASG, Unit 21419, Public Affairs Office, APO AE 09708. Telephone: DSN 361-5419; fax: DSN 361-5106; civilian telephone prefix: 068-27-5419. The country code for Belgium is 0032. Email address: meteor@benelux.army.mil

**Policy**

- We invite and encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request, but we will not print any anonymous letters.
- We reserve the right to edit letters to make them fit the allotted space, to remove libelous material and to correct grammar. Letters should contribute to the informational interest of the issue in question.
- Articles and photographs may be submitted for consideration but publication depends upon the judgment of the editor.
- Community-related event announcements must use civilian dates and times. Spell out acronyms initially and include a point of contact, telephone number and e-mail address.
- All submissions are subject to editing.

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• Any gambling or lottery requiring payment for chance cannot be advertised as stated in 18 U.S.C. 1302.

**Deadline**  
Copy and photographs are due by noon 10 calendar days before publication date.

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Rick Haverinen	Editor
F. Neil Neeley	Writer
Sandy Aubrey	Writer



# Bouncing babies blossom beautifully

By Sharon McCurdy

Imagine preparing for the birth of your baby by shopping, educating yourself about the event, and decorating a nursery. The big day arrives and the baby is born. Your experience is not like what you read, or heard about. You begin to wonder what happened. Why is this little person so demanding, what do you do?

The 80th Area Support Group New Parent Support Program is available for you. Often, I hear mothers talk about their birth experience that is not like any other and I say to them all births and babies are different. Some experiences are more eventful than others. Some can be categorized as traumatic and other experiences are quite positive.

There is someone in the community that understands the needs of new mothers and fathers. Many service members are away from home and because of time difference may not be able to talk with family members immediately. In steps the New Parent Support Program. The program provides supportive and caring services to parents with children from birth to 4 years. This voluntary program was developed to assist military and civilian families in ways that friends and family often do "back home." The program offers opportunities to learn new parenting skills and improve on the ones they currently have. In addition, the program offers home visits, education, support, a playmorning and a variety of classes.

For more information call DSN 423-4274.

McCurdy directs the New Parent Support Program for 80th ASG ACS.



PHOTO: F. Neil Neeley

Jill Baxter and Heidi Ornelles play with Pascal Ali Chocrane (in red vest,) 21 months old, and James Jeter (crawling,) 11 months old, while Baxter's daughter Vivian is hidden on the floor between Pascal and James. At far right is Rachel Hewitt, 7 months. Ornelles is a Dutch national and has a child in the playgroup who is not shown in this picture. The playmorning group meets every two weeks at SHAPE Health Clinic. Call DSN 423-4274 for information.

## Torch Club keeps lights on for youth in Tri-border area

By Sandy Aubrey

BRUNSSUM, Netherlands—The members of the Torch Club meet weekly in a small room in the Youth Center at AFNorth. Torch Club, the name somehow conjures up visions of tradition, wisdom, and something that gives light or guidance.

Although the history of the club may not go back centuries, the newly-energized 254th Base Support Bn. Youth Services Torch Club has goals that are nevertheless designed to provide light and guidance in young peoples' lives.

The club is flourishing. Activated since

January, its members are busy developing and implementing activities and programs that teach responsibility, appreciation for citizenship, and leadership.

Members held a drive March 13 to collect DVDs, videos and CDs for Soldiers wounded in Afghanistan and hospitalized at Landstuhl Medical Facility. They also held a bake sale that raised over \$150 towards their activities fund.

The Torch Club is designed to address the developmental needs of young people 11-13. Youth in this age group often find themselves at that difficult stage of life when

they're too old to interact with children 6-10 years and too young to be a "real" teenager. They often find life confusing and social acceptance elusive.

The Torch Club provides guidance and helps these young people develop social skills that will give them confidence and self-reliance to meet the challenges of growing into adulthood.

In today's fast-paced society, it's important that schools, churches, families, and community-based organizations come together to form new relationships, helping assure the well-rounded develop-

ment of youth.

Following the statutes of the club, members tailor their activities to fit one or more program areas which are service to the club and community, education, health and fitness, and social recreation.

"I enjoy the Torch Club because we do fun and exciting things all the time," said Chelsea O'Connor, 14. "We plan all kinds of activities and have dances, and go on trips with kids our age. I think more kids should join."

For information call Kathryn Thomas at DSN 364-3008.



PHOTO: Sandy Aubrey

## Titanic play staged

It seemed like a cast of a thousand but actually there were only about 40 AFNorth International School fifth and sixth graders in the performance of "Titanic...Memoirs of a Fateful Night" at the school March 31 and April 1. The play was written by Yasmina Shugaifi and Lisa Veer when they were working at a school in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Veer now teaches at AIS and she said the inspiration for the play came from the desire to provide roles for all the talented actors and actresses she and Shugaifi had at their former school. The authors did a lot of research before finally choosing the characters, who represent real people who were on the ship. The most poignant scene is at the end of the play as the ship sinks and despair sets in with the realization that there aren't enough lifeboats, the children are crying and a song is played that was composed and sung by Shugaifi.

## Army Emergency Relief helps Soldiers when most needed

By F. Neil Neeley

Army Emergency Relief is the Army's own emergency financial assistance organization and is dedicated to "Helping the Army Take Care of Its Own". Its sole mission is to provide emergency financial assistance to Soldiers – active duty and retired – and their dependents when there is a valid need.

While AER is not a solution to all financial problems and is not meant to be a cure for poor financial management, it can help a service member cope with an unforeseen or urgent financial crisis. Events such as a death of a family member, an illness, car repairs or a missed paycheck can place a severe financial burden on a Soldier and his family. AER is there to help with an emergency loan or grant to help through the ordeal.

Sgt. Nichole Noyer, of AFN SHAPE,

faced the tragedy of a death in her family in March a year ago. Help was just a few paces down the hall from her AFN studio. AER is co-located with AFN and Army Community Service in building 318 on SHAPE. Noyer wasted no time in getting over to their office.



Noyer

to the States but that wasn't the end of their helpfulness. "They don't just forget about you afterwards," Noyer said. "They gave me numbers to call in case I had any

problems after I got home. Everybody in the office was very supportive."

Noyer first heard about AER in basic training and has been a contributor ever since. "I think it's an excellent organization that helps their own," Noyer said. "My situation was horrible but it was comforting to know that help was there when I needed it."

Sgt. Jason Smith, a military policeman assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Co., U.S. Army NATO, called on AER a couple years ago when his daughter needed to have dental surgery.

"We didn't have that kind of money saved up anywhere," said Smith. "We went to Army Emergency Relief and let them know what was going on. They said fine, they'd be able to help us. The process was really fast. Pretty much when you go down there to talk to them, you'll have a solution when you leave the office."

Smith was given a loan with easy payments. "We're still paying it back now," he said. "The terms that they offer are great. They make it so that repaying the loan isn't another hardship."

The official fund-raising campaign within the footprint of 80th Area Support Group to benefit AER ends May 15, but contributions can be made at any time.

Contributions to AER are tax-deductible, and 96 percent of the money raised goes directly to help Soldiers. Although the charity aids Soldiers, civilians are certainly welcome to contribute. Last year, the local campaign raised approximately 20 percent of total funds that were distributed in this area.

For information about the AER campaign in the SHAPE/Chièvres and Brussels/NSA communities call Quentin Jackson at DSN 361-5973. In Schinnen call Sgt. 1st Class Ricky Johnson, DSN 360-7226.